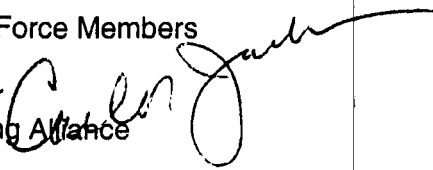


Community Development Commission

October 16, 2003

To: New Directions Task Force Members

From: Carlos Jackson, Chair 
Special Needs Housing Alliance

Subject: **REPORT ON HOUSING, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, AND FUNDING
AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATIONS IN LOS ANGELES
COUNTY**

As mandated by the Special Needs Housing Alliance's (Alliance) Work Plan, this serves to provide you with the Report and Executive Summary on Housing, Supportive Services, and Funding Available for Special Needs Populations in Los Angeles County (attached). A motion will be presented at the October 21, 2003, New Directions Task Force meeting requesting that you officially receive/endorse the Report and recommendations. Following are some key findings:

- ❖ Approximately 58% of special needs program clients resided in one of the following types of housing – emergency shelter, temporary housing, or transitional housing.
- ❖ In the 39 housing programs, roughly 15% of the total clients served by the County departments had special needs.
- ❖ Persons with mental illness were identified as the special needs population most in need of housing across the continuum.
- ❖ After transitional housing, permanent housing was identified as the second most needed type of housing for the County's special needs populations. Emergency shelter and temporary housing were identified respectively as the third and fourth most needed types of housing.
- ❖ Housing placement assistance was ranked the highest, most needed supportive service for four of the eight populations, and was ranked second for the remaining four special needs populations.
- ❖ The total amount of annual funding available for the County's special needs housing and service programs was \$105,616,412.

In addition, the Alliance has also completed the following Work Plan tasks: developed and implemented Funding and Legislative Protocols for sharing information regarding funding, projects and procurement information and activities (Work Plan item: III); developed a Collaborative Agreement and a Business Plan (Work Plan item: IV-A); and, secured support staff and technical assistance (on behalf of the Alliance, Shelter Partnership, Inc. sought and received a two-year \$170,000 [\$85,000 per year] grant from the Corporation for Supportive Housing [CSH], which will enable Shelter Partnership Inc. to serve as support staff and provide technical assistance to the Alliance in pursuit of its mission).

Based on the Alliance's accomplishments and the key findings of the Report, the following next steps are being recommended:

- ❖ Transition the Alliance away from its current role as a planning body into a more active, project-based, policy-driven operation. Request that the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) of the County Chair the Alliance during its transitional period.

- ❖ Consistent with the new operational role of the Alliance, develop a process/mechanism for prioritizing and coordinating flexible annual funding affecting special needs populations.
- ❖ Ensure Alliance members are represented by management staff that has access to decision makers within their department/agency, with the ability to commit available financial and staffing resources to implement policy, project or other decisions set by the Alliance.
- ❖ County departments should be assigned the lead role on a project-specific basis, depending upon the nature of the special needs population(s) being served.
- ❖ Utilize the services of technical assistance providers to support the coordination and project-specific aspects of the Alliance.
- ❖ Ensure that mechanisms are developed by Alliance members to maintain or enhance data collection efforts consistent with those outlined in this report.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Carlos Pineda, CAO, at (213) 974-4650, or Michael D. Castillo, CAO, at (213) 974-4652.

Attachments

CJ:CEP:MDC